Statement-II

Year/Month — *Average International Prices in USD (PMT)*

	Urea (C&F)	DAP (C&F)	MOP (C&F)	Phos Acid (C&F)	Rock Phosph-ate (C&F)	Ammo-nia (C&F)	Sulphur (C&F)
2002-03	110	183	120	342	56	126	84
2003-04	**156**	203	123	356	56	215	84
2004-05	**202**	260	180	403	59	244	90
2005-06	**243**	290	215	445	80	260	94
2006-07	**257**	330	213	464	81	300	76
April'07	**335**	505	250	566	79	352	138
September'07	340	534	280	566	121	263	237
February '08	410	922	450	1437	245	485	614
% change-April 2007 over 2002-03	205%	176%	108%	65%	41%	179%	64%
% change-Feb'2008 over April 2007	22%	83%	80%	154%	210%	38%	345%

Diversion of PDS Grains

1588. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last three years PDS diversion worth Rs. 31,500 crores has taken place;

(b) if so, whether investigations have been made, culprits booked and exemplary punishments given;

(c) whether the Planning Commission had given any report on this sorry state of affairs;

(d) if so, the findings of this report; and

(e) whether any immediate remedial measures were taken to avoid such recurrences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) No, Sir. This amount of diversion of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) foodgrains was wrongly mentioned in Press Report in the Times of India dated 17th September, 2007. This Press Report seems to have used some figures of diversion reported in the study conducted

by ORG MARG. Report of ORG MARG study was received in 2005. It covered data of 2003-04 and 2004-05. This report mentioned diversion of TPDS foodgrains in a number of States. However, the amount mentioned in the Press Report is incorrect. It seems to have used economic cost of foodgrains as the basis for calculation and seems to have assumed that there has been no improvement in functioning of TPDS in subsequent years. Therefore, this Press Report was not factually correct.

TPDS was also evaluated by Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of Planning Commission. It submitted its report in 2005. This report also mentioned about diversion of TPDS foodgrains in many States because of exclusion and inclusion errors in identifying targeted families.

Based on PEO and ORG MARG reports, in consultation with State and Union Territory Governments, a 9-point Action Plan was evolved in 2006. This Action Plan is under implementation in States and Union Territories since July, 2006. A copy of the 9 Point Action Plan is given at statement (*See* below) Implementation of 9 point Action Plan has led to improvement in functioning of TPDS.

(e) In addition to implementation of 9-Point Action Plan the Government has taken a series of measures to strengthen TPDS. Concurrent evaluation of TPDS has been taken up in 26 States and UTs through National Council of Applied Economic Research and Indian Institute of Public Administration. Additionally, a revised Citizens Charter has been issued for adoption and implementation by State/UT Governments for facilitating use by citizens of provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 in relation to functioning of TPDS. Furthermore, to ensure that TPDS foodgrains reached the targeted families and to minimize scope for their diversion, APL allocations have been rationalized. Training Programmes for TPDS functionaries and awareness campaign for TPDS beneficiaries are being taken up. Computerization of TPDS has been initiated. Use of new technologies such as Global Positioning System is being piloted. Revised policy on distribution of wheat flour has been issued.

Statement

9-Point Action Plan

(i) Continuous review of the BPL and AAY lists to eliminate bogus ration cards and to ensure coverage of only eligible BPL and Antyodaya families.

(ii) Ensuring leakage-free and diversion-free distribution of PDS commodities, regular inspection by different levels of functionaries, strict action against guilty persons/ agencies.

(iii) Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in PDS operations-PRI representatives on Advisory Committees, running of fair price shops by Panchayats and effective representation of Panchayati Raj representatives on Vigilance Committees.

(iv) Ensuring transparency in working of PDS, display of BPL and AAY lists by fair price shops, observance of notified timings by fair price shops.

(v) Use of Information Technology, Computerization of TPDS operations, display of fair price shop-wise and district wise allocations of PDS commodities on web-sites for public scrutiny.

The order provides that any company or firm or individual which purchases wheat beyond 10,000 tonnes during 2008-09 shall furnish a return to Secretary, Food of the State from where maximum quantity has been purchased, while a return for purchase of wheat beyond 25,000 tonnes is required to be furnished to the Central Government.

(v) Department of Consumer Affairs has extended upto 31st August, 2008 notification under the EC Act enabling State Government to impose stock limit on wheat.

(vi) Import of wheat on private account at Zero duty has been permitted till further orders.

(vii) In order to encourage wheat procurement in States like U.P., Madhya Pradesh, Bihar etc. Commission to Societies/sub-agents has been enhanced to 2.5% on the lines of the Arthiya Commission in Punjab and Haryana for RMS 2008-09.

Save Grain Campaign

1590. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the genesis/objective of Save Grain Campaign (SGC) and its achievements in Rajasthan;

(b) whether there is no SGC office in Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of farmers trained under the SGC in Rajasthan during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) With a view to minimize farm level storage losses, Save Grain Campaign (SGC) was launched as a pilot scheme in 1965-66 and operated as a regular scheme since 1969-70. The main objective of the scheme is to disseminate the techniques of scientific storage of foodgrains to the farming community by training, demonstration and publicity in selected villages. The achievements of SGC office, Jaipur since inception in Rajasthan upto December, 2007 are as under:—

Sl. No.	Item of work	Achievements
1.	No. of farmers trained in stipendiary training courses	12700
2.	No. of storage receptacles fumigated for insect control	48015
3.	No. of houses covered under domestic rat control	81523
4.	No. of prophylactic treatment given	98462
5.	No. of non-metallic storage structure constructed	5116
6.	No. of indigenous storage structure improved	20664
7.	No. of metal bins provided to the farmers	25566